

# Existence of Triangular Lie Bialgebra Structures II

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Dedicated to the memory of my father

## Abstract

We characterize finite-dimensional Lie algebras over an arbitrary field of characteristic zero which admit a non-trivial (quasi-) triangular Lie bialgebra structure.

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## §1. Introduction

In general, a complete classification of all triangular Lie bialgebra structures is very difficult. Nevertheless, Belavin and Drinfel'd succeeded in [2] to obtain such a classification for *every* finite-dimensional *simple* Lie algebra over the complex numbers. The aim of this paper is much more modest in asking when there exist *non-trivial* (quasi-) triangular Lie bialgebra structures. Michaelis showed in [11] that the existence of a two-dimensional non-abelian subalgebra implies the existence of a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure over any ground field of arbitrary characteristic. In [6] we used a slight generalization of the main result of [11] (cf. also [2, Section 7]) in order to establish a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure on almost any finite-dimensional Lie algebra over an algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic. Moreover, we obtained a characterization of those finite-dimensional Lie algebras which admit non-trivial (quasi-) triangular Lie bialgebra structures. In this paper we extend the results of [6] and [7] to arbitrary ground fields of characteristic zero. A crucial result in the first part of this paper is [6, Theorem 1] which is not available for non-algebraically closed fields and has to be replaced by a more detailed analysis. As in the previous papers, it turns out that with the exception of a few cases occurring in dimension three, every finite-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra over an arbitrary field of characteristic zero admits a *non-trivial triangular* Lie bialgebra structure. As a consequence we also obtain that every finite-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra over an arbitrary field of characteristic zero has a *non-trivial coboundary* Lie bialgebra structure. The latter extends the main result of [4] from the real and complex numbers to arbitrary ground fields of characteristic zero.

Let us now describe the contents of the paper in more detail. In Section 2 we introduce the necessary notation and prove some preliminary results reducing the existence of non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structures to three-dimensional Lie algebras or in one case showing at least that the derived subalgebra is abelian of dimension at most two. The next section is entirely devoted to the

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existence of non-trivial (quasi-) triangular Lie bialgebra structures on three-dimensional *simple* Lie algebras. It is well-known that every three-dimensional simple Lie algebra is the factor algebra of the Lie algebra associated to a quaternion algebra modulo its one-dimensional center. Since the Lie bracket of these so-called quaternionic Lie algebras are explicitly given, one can compute the solutions of the classical Yang-Baxter equation with invariant symmetric part which generalizes [6, Example 1]. This enables us to prove that a three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over an arbitrary field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic not two admits a non-trivial (quasi-) triangular Lie bialgebra structure if and only if it is isomorphic to the split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$ . Moreover, we observe that the classical Yang-Baxter operator for every three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over an arbitrary field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic not two is closely related to the determinant. In the last section we finally prove the characterization of those finite-dimensional Lie algebras which admit *non-trivial (quasi-) triangular* Lie bialgebra structures and show that every finite-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra over an arbitrary field of characteristic zero admits a *non-trivial coboundary* Lie bialgebra structure.

## §2. Preliminaries

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a commutative field of arbitrary characteristic. A *Lie coalgebra* over  $\mathbb{F}$  is a vector space  $\mathfrak{c}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  together with a linear transformation

$$\delta : \mathfrak{c} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c},$$

such that

$$(1) \quad \text{Im}(\delta) \subseteq \text{Im}(\text{id}_{\mathfrak{c}} - \tau),$$

and

$$(2) \quad (\text{id}_{\mathfrak{c}} + \xi + \xi^2) \circ (\text{id}_{\mathfrak{c}} \otimes \delta) \circ \delta = 0,$$

where  $\text{id}_{\mathfrak{c}}$  denotes the identity mapping on  $\mathfrak{c}$ ,  $\tau : \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c} \rightarrow \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c}$  denotes the *switch mapping* sending  $x \otimes y$  to  $y \otimes x$  for every  $x, y \in \mathfrak{c}$ , and  $\xi : \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c} \rightarrow \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c} \otimes \mathfrak{c}$  denotes the *cycle mapping* sending  $x \otimes y \otimes z$  to  $y \otimes z \otimes x$  for every  $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{c}$ . The mapping  $\delta$  is called the *cobacket* of  $\mathfrak{c}$ , (1) is called *co-anticommutativity*, and (2) is called the *co-Jacobi identity*. Note that any cobacket on a one-dimensional Lie coalgebra is the zero mapping since  $\text{Im}(\text{id} - \tau) = 0$ . This is dual to the statement that every bracket on a one-dimensional Lie algebra is zero. For further information on Lie coalgebras we refer the reader to [10] and the references given there.

A *Lie bialgebra* over  $\mathbb{F}$  is a vector space  $\mathfrak{a}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  together with linear transformations  $[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a} \rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$  and  $\delta : \mathfrak{a} \rightarrow \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $(\mathfrak{a}, [\cdot, \cdot])$  is a Lie algebra,  $(\mathfrak{a}, \delta)$  is a Lie coalgebra, and  $\delta$  is a *derivation* from the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{a}$  into the  $\mathfrak{a}$ -module  $\mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$ , i.e.,

$$\delta([x, y]) = x \cdot \delta(y) - y \cdot \delta(x) \quad \forall x, y \in \mathfrak{a},$$

where the tensor product  $\mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$  is an  $\mathfrak{a}$ -module via the *adjoint diagonal action* defined by

$$x \cdot \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j \otimes b_j \right) := \sum_{j=1}^n ([x, a_j] \otimes b_j + a_j \otimes [x, b_j]) \quad \forall x, a_j, b_j \in \mathfrak{a}$$

(cf. [3, Section 1.3A]). A Lie bialgebra structure  $(\mathfrak{a}, \delta)$  on a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{a}$  is called *trivial* if  $\delta = 0$ .

A *coboundary Lie bialgebra* over  $\mathbb{F}$  is a Lie bialgebra  $\mathfrak{a}$  such that the cobracket  $\delta$  is an *inner derivation*, i.e., there exists an element  $r \in \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$  such that

$$\delta(x) = x \cdot r \quad \forall x \in \mathfrak{a}$$

(cf. [3, Section 2.1A]).

In order to describe those tensors  $r$  which give rise to a coboundary Lie bialgebra structure, we will need some more notation. For  $r = \sum_{j=1}^n r_j \otimes r'_j \in \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$  set

$$r^{12} := \sum_{j=1}^n r_j \otimes r'_j \otimes 1, \quad r^{13} := \sum_{j=1}^n r_j \otimes 1 \otimes r'_j, \quad r^{23} := \sum_{j=1}^n 1 \otimes r_j \otimes r'_j,$$

where 1 denotes the identity element of the universal enveloping algebra  $U(\mathfrak{a})$  of  $\mathfrak{a}$ . Note that the elements  $r^{12}, r^{13}, r^{23}$  are considered as elements of the associative algebra  $U(\mathfrak{a}) \otimes U(\mathfrak{a}) \otimes U(\mathfrak{a})$  via the canonical embedding  $\mathfrak{a} \hookrightarrow U(\mathfrak{a})$ . Therefore one can form the commutators given by

$$\begin{aligned} [r^{12}, r^{13}] &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n [r_i, r_j] \otimes r'_i \otimes r'_j, \\ [r^{12}, r^{23}] &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n r_i \otimes [r'_i, r'_j] \otimes r'_j, \\ [r^{13}, r^{23}] &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n r_i \otimes r_j \otimes [r'_i, r'_j]. \end{aligned}$$

Then the mapping

$$\text{CYB} : \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$$

defined via

$$r \longmapsto [r^{12}, r^{13}] + [r^{12}, r^{23}] + [r^{13}, r^{23}]$$

is called the *classical Yang-Baxter operator* for  $\mathfrak{a}$ . The equation  $\text{CYB}(r) = 0$  is the *classical Yang-Baxter equation* (CYBE) for  $\mathfrak{a}$ , and a solution of the CYBE is called a *classical  $r$ -matrix* for  $\mathfrak{a}$  (cf. [3, Section 2.1B]).

Assume for the moment that the characteristic of the ground field  $\mathbb{F}$  is not two. For any vector space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  and every natural number  $n$  the *symmetric group*  $S_n$  of degree  $n$  acts on the  $n$ -fold tensor power  $V^{\otimes n}$  of  $V$  via

$$\sigma \cdot (v_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_n) := v_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\sigma(n)} \quad \forall \sigma \in S_n; v_1, \dots, v_n \in V.$$

The  $\mathbb{F}$ -linear transformation  $\mathcal{S}_n : V^{\otimes n} \rightarrow V^{\otimes n}$  defined by  $t \mapsto \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \sigma \cdot t$  is called the *symmetrization transformation*. The elements of the image  $\text{Im}(\mathcal{S}_n)$  of  $\mathcal{S}_n$  are just the *symmetric  $n$ -tensors*, i.e., elements  $t \in V^{\otimes n}$  such that  $\sigma \cdot t = t$  for every  $\sigma \in S_n$ . Moreover,  $\text{Im}(\mathcal{S}_n)$  is canonically isomorphic to the  $n$ -th *symmetric power*  $S^n V$  of  $V$ . The  $\mathbb{F}$ -linear transformation  $\mathcal{A}_n : V^{\otimes n} \rightarrow V^{\otimes n}$  defined by  $t \mapsto \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \text{sign}(\sigma)(\sigma \cdot t)$  is called the *skew-symmetrization* (or *alternation*) *transformation*. The elements of the image  $\text{Im}(\mathcal{A}_n)$  of  $\mathcal{A}_n$  are just the *skew-symmetric  $n$ -tensors*, i.e., elements  $t \in V^{\otimes n}$  such that  $\sigma \cdot t = \text{sign}(\sigma)t$  for every  $\sigma \in S_n$ . Since  $\text{Im}(\mathcal{A}_n)$  is canonically isomorphic to the  $n$ -th *exterior power*  $\Lambda^n V$  of  $V$ , in the following we will always identify skew-symmetric  $n$ -tensors with elements of  $\Lambda^n V$ ; e.g., we write

$$v_1 \wedge v_2 = (\text{id}_V - \tau)(v_1 \otimes v_2) = v_1 \otimes v_2 - v_2 \otimes v_1$$

in the case  $n = 2$ , where  $\tau : V^{\otimes 2} \rightarrow V^{\otimes 2}$  is given by  $v_1 \otimes v_2 \mapsto v_2 \otimes v_1$ , and

$$v_1 \wedge v_2 \wedge v_3 = \sum_{\sigma \in S_3} \text{sign}(\sigma) v_{\sigma(1)} \otimes v_{\sigma(2)} \otimes v_{\sigma(3)}$$

in the case  $n = 3$ . As a direct consequence of our identifications, we also have that

$$V^{\otimes 2} = S^2 V \oplus \Lambda^2 V.$$

If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is a Lie algebra and  $M$  is an  $\mathfrak{a}$ -module, then the set of  $\mathfrak{a}$ -invariant elements of  $M$  is defined by

$$M^{\mathfrak{a}} := \{m \in M \mid a \cdot m = 0 \quad \forall a \in \mathfrak{a}\}.$$

Let  $r \in \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a}$  and define  $\delta_r(x) := x \cdot r$  for every  $x \in \mathfrak{a}$ . Obviously, a coboundary Lie bialgebra structure  $(\mathfrak{a}, \delta_r)$  on  $\mathfrak{a}$  is *trivial* if and only if  $r \in (\mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a})^{\mathfrak{a}}$ . Moreover, Drinfel'd observed that  $\delta_r$  defines a Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{a}$  if and only if  $r + \tau(r) \in (\mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a})^{\mathfrak{a}}$  and  $\text{CYB}(r) \in (\mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a})^{\mathfrak{a}}$  (see [5, Section 4, p. 804] or [3, Proposition 2.1.2]). In particular, every solution  $r$  of the CYBE satisfying  $r + \tau(r) \in (\mathfrak{a} \otimes \mathfrak{a})^{\mathfrak{a}}$  gives rise to a coboundary Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{a}$ . Following Drinfel'd such Lie bialgebra structures are called *quasi-triangular*, and quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structures arising from skew-symmetric classical  $r$ -matrices are called *triangular*.

In [6, Example 2] we already observed that the three-dimensional *Heisenberg algebra* does *not* admit *any* non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure. Let us recall that the (non-abelian) *nilpotent* three-dimensional *Heisenberg algebra*

$$\mathfrak{h}_1(\mathbb{F}) = \mathbb{F}p \oplus \mathbb{F}q \oplus \mathbb{F}\hbar$$

is determined by the so-called *Heisenberg commutation relation*

$$[p, q] = \hbar.$$

Let us conclude this section by several preliminary results which will be used in the proof of the main theorem of this paper. The first lemma is already contained in [7] and is an immediate consequence of the arguments in the proofs of [6, Theorem 2 and Theorem 3].

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a finite-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra over an arbitrary field  $\mathbb{F}$  with non-zero center. If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is not isomorphic to the three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra, then  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure.  $\square$*

The second lemma follows from a generalization of the proofs of [4, Lemma 4.2 and a part of Lemma 4.1] from  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  to arbitrary ground fields of characteristic zero (for another generalization of the latter see also [6, Theorem 1]). In fact, the proofs in [4] remain valid in the more general setting.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a finite-dimensional centerless solvable Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic zero. If  $[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  is non-abelian or  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] \geq 3$ , then  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure.  $\square$*

*Remark.* The proof of [4, Lemma 4.2] is even valid for any field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ , but the proof of [4, Lemma 4.1] uses in an essential way that the ground field has characteristic zero.

Finally, in the non-solvable case we will need the following result.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a finite-dimensional non-solvable Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic zero. If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is not three-dimensional simple, then  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\mathfrak{a}$  does not admit any non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure. Since the ground field is assumed to have characteristic zero, the Levi decomposition theorem (see [9, p. 91]) yields the existence of a semisimple subalgebra  $\mathfrak{l}$  of  $\mathfrak{a}$  (a so-called *Levi factor* of  $\mathfrak{a}$ ) such that  $\mathfrak{a}$  is the semidirect product of  $\mathfrak{l}$  and its solvable radical  $\text{Solv}(\mathfrak{a})$ . Because  $\mathfrak{a}$  is not solvable, the Levi factor  $\mathfrak{l}$  is non-zero.

Since  $\mathbb{F}$  is infinite,  $\mathfrak{l}$  contains a Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  (see [1, Corollary 1.2]). Let  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$  denote the algebraic closure of the ground field and set  $\overline{\mathfrak{l}} := \mathfrak{l} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \overline{\mathbb{F}}$  as well as  $\overline{\mathfrak{h}} := \mathfrak{h} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \overline{\mathbb{F}}$ . Then  $\overline{\mathfrak{h}}$  is also a Cartan subalgebra of  $\overline{\mathfrak{l}}$ . According to the structure theory of finite-dimensional semisimple Lie algebras over algebraically closed fields of characteristic zero (cf. [9, Section IV.1]),  $\overline{\mathfrak{h}}$  is abelian and  $\overline{\mathfrak{l}}$  is the direct sum of  $\overline{\mathfrak{h}}$  and the one-dimensional root spaces  $\overline{\mathfrak{l}}_{\alpha}$  with  $0 \neq \alpha \in \mathcal{R}$ , where  $\mathcal{R}$  denotes the set of roots of  $\overline{\mathfrak{l}}$  relative to  $\overline{\mathfrak{h}}$ .

Suppose that  $\dim_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}} \overline{\mathfrak{h}} \geq 2$ . Then choose two linearly independent elements  $h, h' \in \mathfrak{h}$  and define  $r := h \wedge h'$ . Clearly  $\text{CYB}(r) = 0$ , and it is obvious that  $\delta_r \neq 0$  if and only if  $\overline{\delta_r} := \delta_r \otimes \text{id}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}} \neq 0$ . Furthermore, set  $\overline{h} := h \otimes 1_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}}$  resp.  $\overline{h'} := h' \otimes 1_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}}$  and choose  $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}$  with  $\alpha(\overline{h}) \neq 0$ . Then for every root vector  $X \in \overline{\mathfrak{l}}_{\alpha}$  we have

$$\overline{\delta_r}(X) = \alpha(\overline{h})\overline{h'} \wedge X - \alpha(\overline{h'})\overline{h} \wedge X \neq 0.$$

Hence we can assume that  $\dim_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}} \overline{\mathfrak{h}} = 1$ , i.e.,  $\overline{\mathfrak{l}} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}})$ . In particular,  $\mathfrak{l}$  is three-dimensional simple.

Suppose now that  $\mathfrak{s} := \text{Solv}(\mathfrak{a}) \neq 0$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $\overline{\mathfrak{h}} = \overline{\mathbb{F}}\overline{h}$  with  $\overline{h} := h \otimes 1_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}}$ . Then it is well-known from the representation theory of  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}})$  that either the weight space  $(\mathfrak{s} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \overline{\mathbb{F}})_0 \cong \mathfrak{s}_0 \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \overline{\mathbb{F}}$  or the weight space  $(\mathfrak{s} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \overline{\mathbb{F}})_1 \cong \mathfrak{s}_1 \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \overline{\mathbb{F}}$  is non-zero (cf. [8, p. 33]). Let  $s$  be a non-zero weight vector in  $\mathfrak{s}$  of weight 0 or 1 and define  $r := h \wedge s$ . Then by virtue of [11, Theorem 3.2],  $\text{CYB}(r) = 0$  and as above it is enough to show that  $\overline{\delta_r} \neq 0$ . Choose  $E \in \overline{\mathfrak{l}}$  such that  $[\overline{h}, E] = 2E$ . (Note that this means in particular that  $\overline{h}$  and  $E$  are *linearly independent* over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$ .) Then

$$\overline{\delta_r}(E) = -2E \wedge \overline{s} + \overline{h} \wedge [E, \overline{s}] \neq 0,$$

where  $\overline{s} := s \otimes 1_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}}$ . Hence  $\text{Solv}(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$  and thus  $\mathfrak{a}$  is three-dimensional simple.  $\square$

### §3. Quaternionic Lie Bialgebras

In this section let  $\mathbb{F}$  be an arbitrary field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ . In order to characterize those finite-dimensional non-solvable Lie algebras which admit non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structures, we need to consider a certain class of four-dimensional unital associative algebras.

Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be non-zero elements of  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then the four-dimensional vector space

$$(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}} := \mathbb{F}1 \oplus \mathbb{F}i \oplus \mathbb{F}j \oplus \mathbb{F}k$$

is an associative  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra with unity element 1 and the defining relations

$$i^2 = -\alpha \cdot 1, \quad j^2 = -\beta \cdot 1, \quad ij = k = -ji.$$

One important example are *Hamilton's quaternions* which arise as  $(1, 1)_{\mathbb{R}}$ . Therefore any algebra  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}}$  with  $0 \neq \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$  is called a *quaternion algebra* over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Note that the assumption  $\alpha \neq 0 \neq \beta$

assures that  $i$  and  $j$  (and thus also  $k$ ) are not nilpotent. In fact,  $\alpha \neq 0 \neq \beta$  implies that  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}}$  is a *central simple* algebra (cf. [12, Lemma 1.6] or [13, Lemma 11.15 in Chapter 2]).

If  $A$  is an associative algebra, then  $A$  is also a Lie algebra via the Lie bracket defined by  $[x, y] := xy - yx$  for every  $x, y \in A$  which will be denoted by  $\mathcal{L}(A)$ . For us the following well-known result will be useful (see [14, Corollary 1.6.2]).

**Lemma 4.** *If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is a three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over an arbitrary field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$ , then there exists a quaternion algebra  $Q$  such that  $\mathfrak{a}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{L}(Q)/\mathbb{F}1_Q$ .  $\square$*

Set  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}} := \mathcal{L}((\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}})/\mathbb{F}1$  and let  $e_1$  denote the residue class of  $\frac{1}{2}i$ , let  $e_2$  denote the residue class of  $\frac{1}{2}j$ , and let  $e_3$  denote the residue class of  $\frac{1}{2}k$  in  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$ . The Lie algebra  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  is called a *quaternionic Lie algebra* over  $\mathbb{F}$  and we have

$$[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}} = \mathbb{F}e_1 \oplus \mathbb{F}e_2 \oplus \mathbb{F}e_3$$

with the following Lie brackets

$$(3) \quad [e_1, e_2] = e_3, \quad [e_2, e_3] = \beta e_1, \quad [e_3, e_1] = \alpha e_2.$$

*Remark.* According to (3), every quaternionic Lie algebra is perfect which in turn implies that every quaternionic Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$  is simple (cf. [14, 3(d), p. 34]).

A three-dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  is called *split* if  $\mathfrak{g} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$  and *non-split* otherwise. Similarly, a central simple algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$  is called *split* if it is isomorphic to  $\text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{F})$  for some positive integer  $n$  and *non-split* otherwise.

**Example 1.** Note that  $(-1, -1)_{\mathbb{F}}$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{F})$  (cf. the proof of [13, Corollary 11.14 in Chapter 2]). Let  $E_{ij}$  denote the  $2 \times 2$  matrix having a 1 in the  $ij$ -th entry and 0's otherwise. Moreover, set  $1 := E_{11} + E_{22}$ . Then the residue classes  $H$ ,  $E$ , and  $F$  of  $E_{11} - E_{22}$ ,  $E_{12}$ , and  $E_{21}$ , respectively, in  $[-1, -1]_{\mathbb{F}} = \mathfrak{gl}_2(\mathbb{F})/\mathbb{F}1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{F}$  and satisfy the relations  $[H, E] = 2E$ ,  $[H, F] = -2F$ , as well as  $[E, F] = H$ . Consequently,  $[-1, -1]_{\mathbb{F}} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$ .

**Example 2.** Consider the *non-split* three-dimensional simple real Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  (which can be realized as the cross product on three-dimensional euclidean space). Then  $\mathfrak{su}(2) \cong [1, 1]_{\mathbb{F}}$  and it is well-known that  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  is the only *non-split* three-dimensional simple real Lie algebra (up to isomorphism). Note that this corresponds to Frobenius' classical result that Hamilton's quaternion algebra  $(1, 1)_{\mathbb{R}}$  is the only non-split central simple  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebra (up to isomorphism) (cf. e.g. the argument after [12, Corollary 1.7]).

The following result determines exactly which quaternionic Lie algebras admit non-trivial (quasi-)triangular Lie bialgebra structures.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  be a quaternionic Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (a)  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure.
- (b)  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  admits a non-trivial quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structure.
- (c)  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  is isomorphic to the split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$ .

*Proof.* Since the implication (a) $\implies$ (b) is trivial and the implication (c) $\implies$ (a) is an immediate consequence of [11, Theorem 3.2], it is enough to show the implication (b) $\implies$ (c).

In order to prove the remaining implication, let us consider the quaternionic Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g} := [\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  with  $0 \neq \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then it follows from a straightforward computation that

$$(\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathbb{F}(\beta e_1 \otimes e_1 + \alpha e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3).$$

Hence,  $r \in \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g}$  satisfies  $r + \tau(r) \in (\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{g}}$  if and only if

$$r = \eta(\beta e_1 \otimes e_1 + \alpha e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3) + \eta_{12}e_1 \wedge e_2 + \eta_{23}e_2 \wedge e_3 + \eta_{31}e_3 \wedge e_1,$$

for some  $\eta, \eta_{12}, \eta_{23}, \eta_{31} \in \mathbb{F}$ . By virtue of [3, Remark 2 after the proof of Lemma 2.1.3], we have

$$\text{CYB}(r) = \eta^2 \text{CYB}(\beta e_1 \otimes e_1 + \alpha e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3) + \text{CYB}(\eta_{12}e_1 \wedge e_2 + \eta_{23}e_2 \wedge e_3 + \eta_{31}e_3 \wedge e_1).$$

A straightforward computation yields

$$\text{CYB}(\beta e_1 \otimes e_1 + \alpha e_2 \otimes e_2 + e_3 \otimes e_3) = (\alpha\beta)e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3.$$

Another straightforward computation shows that  $\{e_1 \wedge e_2, e_2 \wedge e_3, e_3 \wedge e_1\}$  is an *orthogonal* basis of  $\mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g}$  with respect to Drinfel'd's Poisson superbracket  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$  (cf. [6, Proposition 2]) if we identify  $\mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g}$  with  $\mathbb{F}$  via  $e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3 \mapsto 1_{\mathbb{F}}$ . According to [6, Proposition 2 and (3)], we obtain

$$(4) \quad \text{CYB}(\eta_{12}e_1 \wedge e_2 + \eta_{23}e_2 \wedge e_3 + \eta_{31}e_3 \wedge e_1) = (\eta_{12}^2 + \beta\eta_{23}^2 + \alpha\eta_{31}^2)e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3.$$

Combining the last two results, we conclude that

$$\text{CYB}(r) = (\alpha\beta\eta^2 + \eta_{12}^2 + \beta\eta_{23}^2 + \alpha\eta_{31}^2)e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3.$$

Hence  $\text{CYB}(r) = 0$  if and only if  $(\eta_{12}, \eta_{31}, \eta_{23}, \eta) \in \mathbb{F}^4$  is an isotropic vector of the quadratic form  $W^2 + \alpha X^2 + \beta Y^2 + \alpha\beta Z^2$ . But the latter is just the norm form of the quaternion algebra  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}}$  and thus [13, Corollary 11.10 in Chapter 2] implies that the CYBE for  $\mathfrak{g}$  has a non-zero solution with  $\mathfrak{g}$ -invariant symmetric part if and only if  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}} \cong (-1, -1)_{\mathbb{F}}$ . Finally, Example 1 shows that in the latter case  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}} \cong [-1, -1]_{\mathbb{F}} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$ .  $\square$

*Remark.* It follows from Lemma 4 and Proposition 1 that the classical Yang-Baxter equation for a three-dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$  has a non-zero solution with  $\mathfrak{g}$ -invariant symmetric part if and only if  $\mathfrak{g} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{F})$ . In the latter case, all solutions of the classical Yang-Baxter equation with invariant symmetric part are well-known (cf. [2] and [3, Example 2.1.8]).

Let us conclude this section by relating the classical Yang-Baxter operator in the case of a three-dimensional simple Lie algebra to the determinant. Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$ . Then the Lie bracket of  $\mathfrak{g}$  induces a mapping  $\gamma$  from  $\mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g}$  into  $\mathfrak{g}$  which is bijective since  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \mathfrak{g}$  and  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{g} = 3$ . Since in this case  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} = 1$ , there is also a canonical bijection  $\iota$  from  $\mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g}$  onto  $\mathbb{F}$ . In particular,  $\iota \circ \text{CYB}$  is a *quadratic form* with associated symmetric bilinear form  $\iota \circ \{\cdot, \cdot\}$ , where  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$  denotes Drinfel'd's Poisson superbracket (cf. [6, Proposition 2]).

According to Lemma 4,  $\mathfrak{g} \cong [\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  for some  $0 \neq \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$ . Let  $\sqrt{\alpha}$  and  $\sqrt{\beta}$  denote solutions of  $X^2 = \alpha$  and  $X^2 = \beta$ , respectively in the algebraic closure  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$  of  $\mathbb{F}$ . Moreover, let  $\zeta$  denote a solution of  $X^2 + 1 = 0$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$ . Consider the quaternion algebra  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}}$ . Then the mapping defined by

$$1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad i \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\alpha}\zeta & 0 \\ 0 & -\sqrt{\alpha}\zeta \end{pmatrix}, \quad j \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{\beta} \\ -\sqrt{\beta} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad k \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{\alpha\beta}\zeta \\ \sqrt{\alpha\beta}\zeta & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

defines a *two-dimensional faithful* representation  $\rho$  of  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}}$  over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$ . In fact,  $\rho$  is an isomorphism  $(\alpha, \beta)_{\mathbb{F}} \cong \text{Mat}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}})$  of associative  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebras. Consequently, the mapping defined by

$$e_1 \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\alpha}\zeta & 0 \\ 0 & -\sqrt{\alpha}\zeta \end{pmatrix}, \quad e_2 \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{\beta} \\ -\sqrt{\beta} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad e_3 \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{\alpha\beta}\zeta \\ \sqrt{\alpha\beta}\zeta & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

defines a *two-dimensional faithful* representation  $\rho$  of  $\mathfrak{g} \cong [\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}$ . An easy calculation shows that

$$(\det \circ \rho \circ \gamma)(\eta_{12}e_1 \wedge e_2 + \eta_{23}e_2 \wedge e_3 + \eta_{31}e_3 \wedge e_1) = \frac{1}{4}\alpha\beta(\eta_{12}^2 + \beta\eta_{23}^2 + \alpha\eta_{31}^2).$$

Comparing this with (4) yields the following result which was observed for  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$  in [3, Example 2.1.8] and for  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  in [6, Remark after Example 1].

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $\mathfrak{g} \cong [\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  be a three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over an arbitrary field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$  with  $0 \neq \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$ . Then the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} & \xrightarrow{\text{CYB}} & \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} \wedge \mathfrak{g} \\ \gamma \downarrow & & \downarrow \iota \\ \mathfrak{g} & \xrightarrow{\frac{4}{\alpha\beta} \det \circ \rho} & \mathbb{F} \end{array}$$

is commutative.  $\square$

## §4. Main Results

Let us consider the three-dimensional *solvable* Lie algebra

$$\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F}) = \mathbb{F}h \oplus \mathbb{F}s_1 \oplus \mathbb{F}s_2;$$

$$[h, s_1] = \lambda_{11}s_1 + \lambda_{12}s_2, \quad [h, s_2] = \lambda_{21}s_1 + \lambda_{22}s_2, \quad [s_1, s_2] = 0,$$

where  $\Lambda := (\lambda_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq 2}$  is an element of  $\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{F})$ .

If  $\Lambda = 0$ , then  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  is abelian. If  $\Lambda \neq 0$  is *singular*, then  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  is either isomorphic to the three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra or isomorphic to the (trivial) one-dimensional central extension of the two-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra. Finally, if  $\Lambda \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$ , then  $C(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$  and  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 2$ . (In fact,  $\Lambda \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$  if and only if  $C(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$  if and only if  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 2$ .)

*Remark.* It is elementary to show that every *non-simple* three-dimensional Lie algebra is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  for a suitable choice of  $\Lambda \in \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{F})$  (cf. e.g. [9, Section I.4] or [14, Section 1.6]).

Let  $\mathbb{F}^2 := \{\xi^2 \mid \xi \in \mathbb{F}\}$  denote the squares in  $\mathbb{F}$ . We can now state the main result of this paper.

**Theorem.** *Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be a finite-dimensional Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic zero. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (a)  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure.
- (b)  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structure.
- (c)  $\mathfrak{a}$  is non-abelian and neither a non-split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$  nor isomorphic to the three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra  $\mathfrak{h}_1(\mathbb{F})$  or  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  with  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  and  $-\det(\Lambda) \notin \mathbb{F}^2$ .



*Proof.* Since the implication (a) $\implies$ (b) is trivial, it is enough to show the implications (b) $\implies$ (c) and (c) $\implies$ (a).

(b) $\implies$ (c): According to Lemma 4 and Proposition 1, a non-split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra does not admit any non-trivial quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structure. Since it is clear that every coboundary Lie bialgebra structure on an abelian Lie algebra is trivial, it suffices to prove that  $\mathfrak{h}_1(\mathbb{F})$  as well as  $\mathfrak{s}_\Lambda(\mathbb{F})$  with  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  and  $-\det(\Lambda) \notin \mathbb{F}^2$  do not admit any non-trivial quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structure. For  $\mathfrak{h}_1(\mathbb{F})$  this was already done in [6, Example 2]. Let us now consider  $\mathfrak{s} := \mathfrak{s}_\Lambda(\mathbb{F})$  where  $\det(\Lambda) \neq 0$ . Then a straightforward computation yields

$$(\mathfrak{s} \otimes \mathfrak{s})^\mathfrak{s} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}(s_1 \wedge s_2) \oplus \mathbb{F}[\lambda_{21}(s_1 \otimes s_1) - \lambda_{11}(s_1 \otimes s_2 + s_2 \otimes s_1) - \lambda_{12}(s_2 \otimes s_2)] & \text{if } \text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \text{tr}(\Lambda) \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Consider now a 2-tensor  $r = r_0 + r_*$  with  $\mathfrak{s}$ -invariant symmetric part  $r_0$  and skew-symmetric part  $r_*$ . Because of  $[s_1, s_2] = 0$ , we conclude from [3, Remark 2 after the proof of Lemma 2.1.3] that

$$\text{CYB}(r) = \text{CYB}(r_0) + \text{CYB}(r_*) = \text{CYB}(r_*)$$

and

$$\delta_r(x) = x \cdot r = x \cdot r_0 + x \cdot r_* = x \cdot r_* = \delta_{r_*}(x)$$

for every  $x \in \mathfrak{s}$ . Consequently,  $\mathfrak{s}$  admits a non-trivial quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structure if and only if it admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure. Hence it will follow directly from the argument below that  $\mathfrak{s}$  does *not* admit *any* non-trivial quasi-triangular Lie bialgebra structure unless  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) \neq 0$  or  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  and  $-\det(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{F}^2$ .

(c) $\implies$ (a): Suppose that  $\mathfrak{a}$  does not admit any non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure. If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is not solvable, then it follows from Lemma 3, Lemma 4, and Proposition 1 that  $\mathfrak{a}$  is isomorphic to a non-split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is solvable, then by virtue of Lemmas 1 and 2, we can assume for the rest of the proof that the center  $C(\mathfrak{a})$  of  $\mathfrak{a}$  is zero and  $[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  is abelian of dimension at most 2.

Suppose that  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 1$ . Since  $C(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$ , for any non-zero element  $e \in [\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  there exists an element  $a \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $[a, e] \neq 0$ . (Note that this means in particular that  $a$  and  $e$  are *linearly independent* over  $\mathbb{F}$ .) But because of  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 1$ , we have  $[a, e] = \lambda e$  for some  $0 \neq \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ . Set  $r := a \wedge e \in \text{Im}(\text{id}_{\mathfrak{a}} - \tau)$ . Then it follows from [11, Theorem 3.2] that  $r$  is a solution of the CYBE and

$$\delta_r(a) = [a, a] \wedge e + a \wedge [a, e] = \lambda \cdot (a \wedge e) = \lambda \cdot r \neq 0$$

implies that  $\delta_r$  defines a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{a}$ .

Hence we can assume from now on that  $C(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$  and that  $[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  is two-dimensional abelian. Since  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 2$ , there exist  $s_1, s_2 \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that

$$[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = \mathbb{F}s_1 \oplus \mathbb{F}s_2.$$

Next, we show that  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}\mathfrak{a}/[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 1$ . Suppose to the contrary that  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}\mathfrak{a}/[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] \geq 2$ . Because of  $C(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$ , there is an element  $a \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $[a, s_1] \neq 0$ . In particular,  $a \notin \mathbb{F}s_1 \oplus \mathbb{F}s_2$ , i.e.,  $a, s_1$ , and  $s_2$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{F}$ . It follows from  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}\mathfrak{a}/[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] \geq 2$  that there also is an element  $a' \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $a, a', s_1$ , and  $s_2$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{F}$ . Moreover, for every  $1 \leq i, j \leq 2$ , there exist elements  $\alpha_{ij}, \alpha'_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} [a, s_1] &= \alpha_{11}s_1 + \alpha_{12}s_2, & [a, s_2] &= \alpha_{21}s_1 + \alpha_{22}s_2, \\ [a', s_1] &= \alpha'_{11}s_1 + \alpha'_{12}s_2, & [a', s_2] &= \alpha'_{21}s_1 + \alpha'_{22}s_2. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\alpha_{12} = 0$ , then  $[a, s_1] = \alpha_{11}s_1 \neq 0$ , and one can argue as above (for the case  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}}[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}] = 1$ ) that  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure. On the other hand, if  $\alpha_{12} \neq 0$ , let us set  $h := \alpha'_{12}a - \alpha_{12}a'$  and  $\lambda := \alpha'_{12}\alpha_{11} - \alpha_{12}\alpha'_{11}$ . Then  $h \notin [\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  and  $[h, s_1] = \lambda s_1$ . If we now put  $r := h \wedge s_1 \in \text{Im}(\text{id}_{\mathfrak{a}} - \tau)$ , we see as before that  $r$  is a solution of the CYBE. Since  $h \notin [\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  and  $[a, s_1] \neq 0$ , we conclude that

$$\delta_r(a) = [a, h] \wedge s_1 + h \wedge [a, s_1] \neq 0.$$

Hence  $\delta_r$  defines a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{a}$ .

Finally, we can assume that  $\mathfrak{a}$  is three-dimensional and  $[\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{a}]$  is two-dimensional abelian. It follows that  $\mathfrak{a} \cong \mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  with  $\det(\Lambda) \neq 0$ . Then we obtain for an arbitrary skew-symmetric 2-tensor

$$r = \omega s_1 \wedge s_2 + \xi_1 h \wedge s_1 + \xi_2 h \wedge s_2$$

with  $\omega, \xi_1, \xi_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  that

$$\text{CYB}(r) = [\lambda_{12}\xi_1^2 - (\lambda_{11} - \lambda_{22})\xi_1\xi_2 - \lambda_{21}\xi_2^2] \cdot h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2.$$

If  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) \neq 0$ , then – as already established in the proof of the implication (b) $\implies$ (c) – there is *no* non-zero  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$ -invariant 2-tensor. Consequently,  $r := s_1 \wedge s_2$  defines a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$ .

On the other hand, if  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$ , then the discriminant of the relevant homogeneous quadratic equation

$$\lambda_{12}X_1^2 - (\lambda_{11} - \lambda_{22})X_1X_2 - \lambda_{21}X_2^2 = 0$$

is the *negative* of  $\det(\Lambda)$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure if and only if  $-\det(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{F}^2$ .  $\square$

As an immediate consequence of the theorem we obtain the following existence result:

**Corollary 1.** *If  $\mathfrak{a}$  is a finite-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic zero with  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{a} \neq 3$ , then  $\mathfrak{a}$  admits a non-trivial triangular Lie bialgebra structure.  $\square$*

We conclude with the following generalization of the main result of [4] from  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  to arbitrary ground fields of characteristic zero (for another generalization see also the remark after [6, Theorem 4]).

**Corollary 2.** *Every finite-dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra over an arbitrary field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic zero admits a non-trivial coboundary Lie bialgebra structure.*

*Proof.* According to the theorem, we only have to prove the existence of a non-trivial coboundary Lie bialgebra structure for a non-split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ , the three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra  $\mathfrak{h}_1(\mathbb{F})$ , and the three-dimensional solvable Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{s}_{\Lambda}(\mathbb{F})$  with  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  and  $-\det(\Lambda) \notin \mathbb{F}^2$ .

First, let us consider a non-split three-dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ . By virtue of Lemma 4,  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a quaternionic Lie algebra  $[\alpha, \beta]_{\mathbb{F}}$  for some  $0 \neq \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$ . Set  $r := e_1 \wedge e_2$ . Then it follows from [6, Proposition 2] that  $\text{CYB}(r) = 2e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3$  and thus a straightforward computation shows that  $\text{CYB}(r)$  is  $\mathfrak{g}$ -invariant. Because of  $\delta_r(e_1) = 2e_1 \wedge e_3 \neq 0$ , the skew-symmetric 2-tensor  $r$  defines a non-trivial coboundary Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

In the case of the three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra  $\mathfrak{h} := \mathfrak{h}_1(\mathbb{F})$  set  $r := p \wedge q$ . It was shown in the proof of [6, Theorem 3] that  $\text{CYB}(r) = p \wedge q \wedge \hbar$  which clearly is  $\mathfrak{h}$ -invariant. Since

$$\delta_r(p) = p \wedge \hbar \neq 0 \neq q \wedge \hbar = \delta_r(q),$$

the skew-symmetric 2-tensor  $r$  defines a non-trivial coboundary Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{h}$ .

Finally, consider  $\mathfrak{s} := \mathfrak{s}_\Lambda(\mathbb{F})$  with  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  and  $-\det(\Lambda) \notin \mathbb{F}^2$ . Set  $r_1 := h \wedge s_1$  and  $r_2 := h \wedge s_2$ . Then it follows from [6, Proposition 2] that  $\text{CYB}(r_1) = \lambda_{12}h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2$  and  $\text{CYB}(r_2) = -\lambda_{21}h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2$ . But obviously,  $s_1 \cdot (h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2) = 0$ ,  $s_2 \cdot (h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2) = 0$ , and  $h \cdot (h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2) = \text{tr}(\Lambda)h \wedge s_1 \wedge s_2$ . Hence  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  implies that  $\text{CYB}(r_1)$  and  $\text{CYB}(r_2)$  are both  $\mathfrak{s}$ -invariant. On the other hand,

$$\delta_{r_1}(h) = \lambda_{11}h \wedge s_1 + \lambda_{12}h \wedge s_2$$

and

$$\delta_{r_2}(h) = \lambda_{21}h \wedge s_1 + \lambda_{22}h \wedge s_2$$

show that at least one of the skew-symmetric 2-tensors  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  defines a non-trivial coboundary Lie bialgebra structure on  $\mathfrak{s}$  if  $\text{tr}(\Lambda) = 0$  and  $\Lambda \neq 0$ .  $\square$

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